

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 OPR-02 SS-15 CCO-00

OCL-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01

/051 W

-----282119Z 034998 /66

O 182000Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: EPMG CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD ASSURANCES ON DEPENDENT TRAVEL

1. BELAINESH FRANZ, WIFE OF ERNEST FRANZ CISCO EMPLOYEE HAS STILL NOT BEEN GRANTED ASSURANCE THAT SHE WILL BE PERMITTED TO ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND ON APRIL 29 AIRLIFT. SHE IS EFFECTIVELY BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PLACE THE BURDEN ON THE USG.

2. EPMG CONTENTS THAT AS MARRIAGE OCCURRED APRIL 26, AFTER EPMG ORDER FOR KAGNEW TO CLOSE, IT CONSTITUTES AN ILLEGAL OR IRREGULAR EXPATRIATION OF AN ETHIOPIAN CITIZEN. NO ONE CONTENTS THAT THE MARRIAGE IS NOT LEGAL BOTH UNDER LOCAL LAW AND AS RECOGNIZED IN THE U.S., IT APPEARS SIMPLY TO BE A POWER PLAY ON PART OF LOCAL EPMG OFFICIALS TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON US.

3. KEY PLAYER IN THIS NERVE-WRACKING CAT AND MOUSE GAME IS
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MENGESHA, CHAIRMAN OF THE EPMG COMMITTEE ON CLOSEOUT OF KAGNEW AND ASMARA CONSULATES. AFTER PROMISING DEFINITIVE ANSWER AT 1930 LOCAL, HE FAILED TO CALL. HE WAS FINALLY PRODDERED TO CALL AT 2125 AT WHICH TIME HE REFUSED TO GRANT ASSURANCE THAT MRS. FRANZ WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE ON APRIL 29 AIRLIFT. HE SAID SHE MAY LEAVE ETHIOPIA, BUT SHE MUST COMPLETE NORMAL FORMALITIES REQUIRED OF RESIDENTS WHICH USUALLY TAKE 3 TO 5 DAYS.

4. A LATER CONTACT WITH ABRAHAM OF THE LOCAL MOFA DID NOT PRODUCE ANY HARD ASSURANCES, BUT HE SAID "AS A FRIEND, DO NOT WORRY". I HAVE GIVEN FRANZ AN EXACT TIMETABLE TO FOLLOW AND HE WILL COME TO THE AIRPORT EVEN IF ALL FORMALITIES HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED.

5. I CONSIDER THIS ENTIRE EPISODE A REFLECTION OF THE INNATE HOSTILITY WHICH CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE EPMG HARBOR AGAINST THE USG. I WILL EMPLOY EVERY POSSIBLE RESOURCE AT MY DISPOSAL TO HAVE MRS. FRANZ ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND FROM ASMARA.
WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 2780928
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: AEMR
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